Message Text

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P 170107Z JUN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 6143 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALL EC CAPITALS PARIS GENEVA SAO PAULO RIO DE JANEIRO JUN 15, 1977

QTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 06143

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, BR, EEC

SUBJ: BRAZILIAN/EEC NEGOTIATIONS ON COUNTERVAILING

DUTIES ON SOYBEANS REF: BRASILIA 4811

1. MISSION OFFICERS DISCUSSED PRESENT STATE OF EC COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION ON BRAZILIAN SOYBEANS ON JUNE 14 WITH EC OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATION AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF FEDIOL (EC OILSEED CRUSHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FEDERATION). OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT EC OBJECTIVES ARE MORE LIMITED THAN THOSE MENTIONED IN REFTEL AND THAT EC DOES NOT SEE THE CASE AS EXTENDING BEYOND SOYBEANS TO OTHER LDC PROCESSED PRODUCTS. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, EC PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN FROM BRAZILIANS AN AGREEMENT ON THE PROGRESSIVE REDUCTION OF THE TAX DIFFERENTIAL CURRENTLY PERTAINING BETWEEN BEANS AND MEAL

(SIMILAR TO THE AGREEMENT ALREADY OBTAINED BY THE U.S. ON SOYBEAN OIL). THE FEDIOL REPRESENTATIVE VIEWS IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES AS A LAST RESORT AND, IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT MARKET SITUATION, HE FELT THERE WAS NO CHANCE THEY WOULD BE APPLIED THIS SUMMER.

- 2. COMMISSION SOURCE STATED THAT EC SIDE HAD DONE ALMOST ALL THE TALKING IN THE FIRST NEGOTIATING SESSION WITH THE BRAZILIANS. BRAZILIAN MISSION HERE SAYS THEIR SIDE HAD ASSERTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DAMAGE TO EC INDUSTRY, POINTING TO THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF EC CRUSHING CAPACITY. THEY ALSO ALLUDED TO THEIR SPECIAL STATUS AS A DEVELOPINV COUNTRY. NEXT MEETINGS SCHEDULED LATER THIS MONTH.
- 3. THE FEDIOL REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT THE EC INDUSTRY CLAIM THAT DAMAGE TO DOMESTIC INDUSTRY HAD BEEN CAUSED BY BRAZILIAN PRACTICES. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE BRAZIL TO MODIFY THESE PRACTICES. HE SAID THAT BRAZIL HAD INCREASED THE TAX ON SOYBEAN MEAL EXPORTS FROM 5 TO 7.5 PERCENT IN APRIL AND FELT THAT THIS ACTION HAD BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE EC COMPLAINT. HINTON UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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